

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

THE
RANDOM
HOUSE
DICTIONARY
of the
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

JESS STEIN

Editor in Chief

LAURENCE URDANG

Managing Editor



© Copyright, 1966, by Random House, Inc.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions

PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK BY RANDOM HOUSE, INC.

AND SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TORONTO BY RANDOM HOUSE OF CANADA LIMITED

Random House Dictionary and its abbreviations RHD and RHDEL are trademarks of Random House, Inc.

First Printing

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 66-21939

Entered words which we have reason to believe constitute trademarks have been designated as such.

However, neither the presence nor the absence of such designation should be regarded as affecting the legal status of any trademark.

The Concise French Dictionary, edited by Francesca L. V. Langbaum, © Copyright, 1954, by Random House, Inc.

The Concise Spanish Dictionary, edited by Donald F. Solá, © Copyright, 1954, by Random House, Inc.

The Concise Italian Dictionary, edited by Robert A. Hall, Jr., © Copyright, 1957, by Random House, Inc.

The Concise German Dictionary, edited by Jenni Karding Moulton, © Copyright, 1959, by Random House, Inc.

Major Dates in History, edited by Charles D. Lieber and Anne Dyer Murphy, © Copyright, 1964, by Random House, Inc.

Entire contents of the *Atlas* and the index to the maps, © Copyright, 1966, by C. S. Hammond & Company.

Chart of Periodic Table of the Elements, © Copyright, 1964, by E. H. Sargent & Co.

Table of Common Proofreader's Marks, © Copyright, 1950, 1956, by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

Manufactured in the United States of America

...the interval that completes an octave when added to a given interval. 10. Immunol. a thermolabile substance in blood serum and plasma that in combination with antibodies destroys bacteria, foreign cells, and antigens. 11. See complementary color. —v.t. 12. To complete; to form a complement to: *This hat complements the dress better than that one.* 13. Obs. to complete. 14. Obs. to complement. [ME < L *complere* (um) that which completes, equiv. to *complementum* (to) fill up (see COMPLETE) + *-mentum* -MENT]

complement (kəm'plə-mənt/er, n. 1. COMPLEMENT, SUPPLEMENT both mean to add an addition or additions to something. To COMPLEMENT is to provide something felt to be lacking or needed; it is often applied to putting together two things, each of which supplies what is lacking in the other, to make a complete whole: *Two statements from different points of view may complement each other.* To SUPPLEMENT is merely to add to; no definite lack or deficiency is implied nor is there an idea of a definite relationship between parts: *Some additional remarks may supplement either statement or both.*

complemental (kəm'plə-mən't(ə)l, adj. 1. complementary; completing. 2. Obs. a. accomplished. b. ceremonious. c. complimentary. —com-plement + -al] —com-

complementary (kəm'plə-mən't(ə)ri, adj. 1. forming a complement; 2. complementing. —com-plement + -ary. —com-ple-men-tar-i-ness, n.

complementary angle, *Math.* either of two angles that added together produce an angle of 90°. Cf. supplementary angle.

complementary cells, *Bot.* cells fitting closely together in the tissue.

complementary color, 1. Art. a. one of a pair of primary or secondary colors opposed to the other member of the pair on a schematic chart or scale (color wheel), as purple opposed to yellow, orange opposed to blue, or violet opposed to green. b. the relationship of these pairs of colors perceived as complementing or enhancing each other. 2. See secondary color.

complementary distribution, *Ling.* a relation such that the members of a pair or set of phones, morphs, or other linguistic units have no environment in common, as aspirated "p" and unaspirated "p," which are in complementary distribution in English, since the first occurs only in positions where the second does not. Also called **complementation**. Cf. free variation.

complementary distribution, *Math.* a relation such that the members of a pair or set of phones, morphs, or other linguistic units have no environment in common, as aspirated "p" and unaspirated "p," which are in complementary distribution in English, since the first occurs only in positions where the second does not. Also called **complementation**. Cf. free variation.

complementary distribution, *Math.* a relation such that the members of a pair or set of phones, morphs, or other linguistic units have no environment in common, as aspirated "p" and unaspirated "p," which are in complementary distribution in English, since the first occurs only in positions where the second does not. Also called **complementation**. Cf. free variation.

complementary distribution, *Math.* a relation such that the members of a pair or set of phones, morphs, or other linguistic units have no environment in common, as aspirated "p" and unaspirated "p," which are in complementary distribution in English, since the first occurs only in positions where the second does not. Also called **complementation**. Cf. free variation.

complementary distribution, *Math.* a relation such that the members of a pair or set of phones, morphs, or other linguistic units have no environment in common, as aspirated "p" and unaspirated "p," which are in complementary distribution in English, since the first occurs only in positions where the second does not. Also called **complementation**. Cf. free variation.

complementary distribution, *Math.* a relation such that the members of a pair or set of phones, morphs, or other linguistic units have no environment in common, as aspirated "p" and unaspirated "p," which are in complementary distribution in English, since the first occurs only in positions where the second does not. Also called **complementation**. Cf. free variation.

complementary distribution, *Math.* a relation such that the members of a pair or set of phones, morphs, or other linguistic units have no environment in common, as aspirated "p" and unaspirated "p," which are in complementary distribution in English, since the first occurs only in positions where the second does not. Also called **complementation**. Cf. free variation.

complementary distribution, *Math.* a relation such that the members of a pair or set of phones, morphs, or other linguistic units have no environment in common, as aspirated "p" and unaspirated "p," which are in complementary distribution in English, since the first occurs only in positions where the second does not. Also called **complementation**. Cf. free variation.

complete/ fracture, a bone fracture in which the bone is split completely across.

completely normal space, *Math.* a normal topological space in which every subspace is normal.

completely regular space, *Math.* a topological space in which, for every point and a closed set not containing the point, there is a continuous function that has value 0 at the given point and value 1 at each point in the closed set.

complete/ quadrilateral, a plane figure composed of four straight lines and their points of intersection.

completing the square, *Math.* a method, usually of solving quadratic equations, by which a quadratic expression, as $x^2 - 4x + 3$, is written as the sum or difference of a perfect square and a constant, $x^2 - 4x + 4 + 3 - 4 = (x - 2)^2 - 1$, by addition and subtraction of appropriate constant terms.

completion (kəm'plē-shən), n. 1. the act of completing. 2. the state of being completed. 3. conclusion; fulfillment: *His last novel represented the completion of his literary achievement.* 4. Football, a forward pass that has been completed. [*< L completio* - (s. of *completio*). See COMPLETE, -ION]

complex (adj. kəm'pleks/, kom'pleks; n. kəm'pleks), adj. 1. composed of interconnected parts; compound; composite: *a complex highway system.* 2. characterized by a very complicated or involved arrangement of parts, units, etc.: *a complex machine.* 3. so complicated or intricate as to be hard to understand or deal with: *a complex problem.* 4. Gram. a. (of a word) consisting of two parts, at least one of which is a bound form, as *childish*, which consists of the word *child* and the bound form *-ish*. b. See **complex sentence**. 5. *Math.* pertaining to a complex number. [*< L complex(us)* ptp. of *complecti* to COMPLECT]

—n. 6. an intricate or complicated association or assemblage of related things, parts, units, etc.: *the entire complex of our educational system.* 7. *Psychol.* a system of interrelated, emotion-charged ideas, feelings, memories, and impulses that is usually repressed and that gives rise to abnormal or pathological behavior. 8. a fixed idea; an obsessive notion. 9. *Math.* a. an arbitrary set of elements of a group. b. a collection of simplexes having specified properties. [*< L complex(us)* an embrace, equiv. to *complecti* (ptp. s. of *complecti* COMPLECT) + *-us* 4th decl. n. suffix] —com-plex-ly, adv. —com-plex-ness, n.

—Syn. 2. 3. involved, perplexing. 3. knotty, tangled, labyrinthine. 6. network, web, tangle, labyrinth.

—Ant. 2. 3. simple.

complex fraction, *Math.* a fraction in which the numerator or the denominator or both contain one or more fractions. Also called **compound fraction**.

complexion (kəm'plek-shən), n. 1. the natural color and appearance of the skin, esp. of the face: *a clear, smooth, rosy complexion.* 2. appearance; aspect; character: *The news of her departure put a different complexion on the situation.* 3. viewpoint, attitude, or conviction: *The citizens will unite with the mayor regardless of their political complexion.* 4. *Old Physiol.* constitution or nature of body and mind, regarded as the result of certain combined qualities. 5. Obs. nature; disposition; temperament. Also, **complexion**. [ME < medical *L complexio* - (s. of *complexio*) bodily make-up, shape, etc., orig. combination. See COMPLEX, -ION] —com-plex-ion-al, adj. —com-plex-ion-al-ly, adv.

complexioned (kəm'plek-shənd), adj. having a specified complexion (usually used in combination): *a light-complexioned person.* [late ME; see COMPLEXION, -ED]

complexion-less (kəm'plek-shən-lis), adj. devoid of color; pallid; wan. [COMPLEXION + -LESS]

complexity (kəm'plek-si-tē), n., pl. -ties. 1. the state or quality of being complex; intricacy: *the complexity of urban life.* 2. something complex: *the endless complexities of our foreign policy.* [COMPLEX + -ITY]

complex machine, *Mech.* machine (def. 4c).

complex number, *Math.* a mathematical expression $(a + bi)$ in which a and b are real numbers and i^2 is defined as -1.

complex plane, *Math.* a plane the points of which are complex numbers. Cf. Argand diagram.

complex sentence, a sentence containing one or more dependent clauses in addition to the main clause, as *When the bell rings (dependent clause), walk out (main clause).*

complex variable, *Math.* a variable to which complex numbers may be assigned as value.

compliant (kəm'pli-ə-bəl), adj. Obs. compliant. [COMPLY + -ABLE] —com-pliant-ness, n. —com-pliant-ly, adv.

compliance (kəm'pli-əns), n. 1. the act of conforming, acquiescing, or yielding. 2. a tendency to yield readily to others, esp. in a weak and subservient way. 3. conformity; accordance: *I am writing to the Governor in compliance with your orders.* 4. cooperation or obedience: *the compliance of all French citizens.* 5. *Physic.* a. the strain of an elastic body expressed as a function of the force producing the strain. b. a coefficient expressing the responsiveness of a mechanical system to a periodic force. [COMPLY + -ANCE]

compliance (kəm'pli-əns), n., pl. -cies. compliance (defs. 1, 2, 4).

compliant (kəm'pli-ənt), adj. complying; obeying, obliging, or yielding, esp. in a submissive way: *a man with a compliant nature.* [COMPLY + -ANT] —com-pliant-ly, adv.

complicated (kəm'plə-kā-tid), adj. 1. the state of being complicated; complicatedness. 2. a complication: *the numerous complications of travel in Albania.* [COMPLICATE + -AC, modeled on such pairs as *confederacy*, *confederate*]

complicate (v. kəm'plə-kāt/; adj. kəm'plə-kīt), v., -cat-ed, -cat-ing, adj. —v.t. 1. to make complex, intricate, involved, or difficult: *Bringing in politics only complicated the argument.* *His recovery from the operation was complicated by an allergic reaction.* —adj. 2. complex; involved. 3. *Bot.* folded upon itself: *a complicated embryo.* 4. *Entomol.* folded longitudinally one or more times, as the wings of certain insects. [*< L complicāt(us)* times of folding (to fold together) equiv. to *com-*

complicated (kəm'plə-kā-tid), adj. 1. composed of elaborately interconnected parts; not simple; complex: *a laboratory of complicated apparatus.* 2. consisting of many parts not easily separable; difficult to analyze, understand, explain, etc.: *a complicated problem; a complicated person.* [COMPLICATE + -ED] —com-pli-cat-ed-ly, adv. —com-pli-cat-ed-ness, n. —Syn. 2. involved, tangled, knotty.

complication (kəm'plə-kā-shən), n. 1. the act of complicating. 2. a complicated or involved state or condition. 3. a complex combination of elements or things. 4. an element that introduces, usually unexpectedly, some difficulty, problem, change, etc.: *Because of the complications involved in travel to Latvia, we called off the trip.* 5. *Pathol.* a concurrent disease or a fortuitous condition that aggravates the original disease. 6. the act of forming a unified idea or impression from a number of sense data, memories, etc. [*< LL complicatio* - (s. of *complicatio*), equiv. to *complicat(us)* (see COMPLICATE) + *-ion* -ION] —com-pli-ca-tive, adj.

compliance (kəm'plis), n. *Archaic.* an accomplice or associate. [late ME < MF < LL *compliance(m)*, acc. of *complez confederate* (formation modeled on *simplex*), equiv. to *com* -com- + *-plex* -fold]

complicity (kəm'plis-i-tē), n., pl. -ties. the state of being an accomplice; partnership or involvement in wrongdoing: *He was accused of complicity in the crime.* [COMPLY + -ITY] —com-plit-i-tous, adj.

complier (kəm'pli-ər), n. a person who complies. [COMPLY + -ER]

compliment (n. kəm'plə-mant; v. kəm'plə-mənt/), n. 1. an expression of praise, commendation, or admiration: *A sincere compliment boosts one's morale.* 2. a formal act or expression of civility, respect, or regard: *He paid her the compliment of escorting her.* 3. **compliments**, a courteous greeting; good wishes; regards: *He sends you his compliments.* 4. *Archaic.* a gift; present. —v.t. 5. to pay a compliment to: *to compliment a child on his good behavior.* 6. to show kindness or regard for by a gift or other favor: *He complimented us by giving a party in our honor.* 7. to congratulate; felicitate: *to compliment a prince on the birth of a son.* —v.i. 8. to pay compliments. [*< F < It complimento* - (s. of *Sp cumplimento*, equiv. to *cumpli* - (see COMPLY) - *mento* -MENT; r. COMPLEMENT in same sense)] —com-pli-ment-a-ble, adj. —com-pli-ment-er, n. —com-pli-ment-ing-ly, adv.

—Syn. 1. praise, tribute, eulogy, encomium, panegyric. 5. commend, praise, honor, flatter. —Ant. 1. disparagement.

complimentary (kəm'plə-mən't(ə)ri, -trē), adj. 1. of the nature of, conveying, or expressing a compliment, often one that is politely flattering: *complimentary reviews of his novel; a complimentary remark.* 2. free: *a complimentary ticket; a complimentary copy of a textbook for the teacher.* [COMPLIMENT + -ARY] —com-pli-men-ta-ri-ly, adv. —com-pli-men-ta-ri-ness, n.

complimentary close (klōz), the part of a letter that by convention immediately precedes the signature, as "Very truly yours," "Cordially," "Sincerely yours," etc. Also, **complimentary closing**. Also called **closing close**.

compline (kəm'pli:n), n. *Eccles.* the last of the seven canonical hours, or the service for it, originally occurring after the evening meal but now usually following immediately upon vespers. Also, **compline** (kəm'pli:n, -plīn), [ME *complein*, equiv. to *compli*, *complelie* (< OF *comple*, *comple*, < L *completa* (hora) complete (hour) + *-in* (of MATIN)]

complot (n. kəm'plot/; v. kəm'plot/), n., v., -plot-ted, -plot-ting. —n. 1. a joint plot; conspiracy. —v.t. 2. to plot together; conspire. [*< MF < ?*] —com-plot-ment, n. —com-plot-ter, n.

compluvium (kəm'plū-vē-əm, kom-), n., pl. -via (-vē-ə). (in ancient Roman architecture) a central area open to the weather, as in an atrium. [*< L*, equiv. to *compluvium* (to) flow together (*com* -com- + *pluvium* to rain) + *-ium* n. suffix]

comply (kəm'pli/), v.i., -plied, -ply-ing. 1. to act in accordance with wishes, requests, demands, requirements, conditions, etc.; agree (sometimes fol. by *with*): *They asked him to leave and he complied. She has complied with the school's academic requirements.* 2. Obs. to be courteous or conciliatory. [*< It complire* < Sp *cumplir* (see COMPLIMENT) to fulfill, accomplish < L *compiere*, equiv. to *com* -com- + *piere* -fill + *-re* inf. suffix] —Syn. 1. acquiesce, yield, conform, obey, consent, assent. —Ant. 1. refuse, resist.

compos (kəm'pō), n., pl. -pos. composition material. [by shortening]

compensation (kəm'pō-nē), n. *Australian Slang.* See **workmen's compensation insurance**. [COM-PENSATION + -o suffix of appurtenance]

component (kəm'pō-nənt), adj. 1. being or serving as an element (in something larger); composing; constituent: *the component parts of a high-fidelity phonograph.* —n. 2. a component part; constituent: *hi-fi components.* 3. *Physics.* the projection of a vector quantity, as force, velocity, or the like, along an axis. 4. *Physical Chem.* one of the set of the minimum number of chemical constituents by which every phase of a given system can be described. 5. *Math.* a. a connected subset of a set, not contained in any other connected subset of the set. b. a coordinate of a vector. [*< L componēns* - (s. of *componēns*, prp. of *componere* to put together), equiv. to *com* -com- + *ponere* (to) put + *-ent* -ENT] —com-po-nen-tial (kəm'pō-nən'shəl), —com-po-nen-tal, adj. —com-po-nen-ted, adj. —Syn. 2. See element.

compony (kəm'pō-nē), adj. *Heraldry.* composed of a single row of squares, metal and color alternating; gobyony. Also, **compony** (kəm'pō-nē; Fr. *kōn pō nā*). [*< MF compone*, nasalized var. of *copone*, equiv. to *copon* COUPON + *-e* -EE]

comport (kəm'pōrt/, -pōrt/), v.t. 1. to bear or conduct (oneself); behave: *He comport himself with dignity.* 2. to be in agreement, harmony, or conformance with: *His remark simply does not comport with his known attitude.* —n. 3. Obs. comportment. [*< MF comport(er)* < L *comportare* to transport, support, equiv. to *com* -com- + *portare* to carry]

comport (kəm'pōrt/, -pōrt/), n. a large English glass dish of the 18th century used for holding fruit, caudry, or the like, and having a wide shallow top supported by

